

A **53 year old male** employee was **crushed** between the refrigeration unit of the trailer and the smokestack on the cab of a yard truck while another employee was backing the truck into place.

The victim was assigned as a trainer for a CDL trainee. His job was to teach the trainee how to hook up the TICO Pro-spotter yard truck to the tractor trailers and position them for loading. On the day of the accident, he was standing in the doorway of the cab on the platform of the Yard Truck directing the trainee through the yard. All the team trucks were positioned first and they were getting started on the local route trucks. While the Trainee was backing the Yard Truck up to the trailer, the victim moved from the door opening to the platform and stood to the side of the door so the trainee could see the fifth wheel and kingpin while receiving directions.

The platform of the Yard Truck measures 42 inches high, 43 inches wide, and is 60 inches long measured from the cab to the back of the fifth wheel. The cab of the TICO Pro-spotter yard truck is only designed to accommodate the driver, as there is only one seat and seat belt. During interviews it was determined that common practice was for the trainer to sit on the dash in the cab while the Yard truck was in operation.

On this day, the victim stood on the platform to give directions. While driving in reverse to connect the trailer, the kingpin on the trailer hit the edge of the fifth wheel on the Yard Truck causing it to slide off the fifth wheel and become lodged behind the fifth wheel. The trailer was designed with a refrigeration unit that extended out an additional 23 inches from the trailer. When the kingpin was lodged behind the fifth wheel, the victim was pinned between the refrigeration unit of the trailer and the smokestack on the cab of the Yard Truck. The Trainee could not pull the Yard Truck forward because the kingpin was lodged behind the fifth wheel. The only entrance to the Yard truck is the door located on the platform which was blocked by the trailer. The Trainee had to climb out the window of the Yard Truck to get assistance. Other employees ran over to help raise the trailer so that the kingpin would clear the fifth wheel and the Yard Truck could be moved away from the trailer.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

Type of Violation: Willful-Serious

\$45,000

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees:

In that employees were exposed to a struck by/ caught in between hazard while training new drivers in the TICP Pro Spotter (Yard Truck) in the following instances:

- a) While standing on the platform behind the cab while the truck was moving in reverse to connect to a tractor trailer, resulting in fatal injuries
- b) While sitting on the dash of the truck while training new drivers.

Citation 2 Item 1

Type of Violation: Serious

\$3,600

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees:

In that the operator was not required to wear a seat belt while riding in the cab of the TICP Pro-Spotter (Yard Truck) as the seat belt provided in the cab was damaged and non-functional.



53--Crushed by--Insp # 1564415Performance Food Group Inc

